

Message Text

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ACTION SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 AID-05 DEAE-00 CIAE-00

INR-07 IO-10 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SY-04 TRSE-00

USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-03 OMB-01 H-01 DODE-00 /067 W

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R 281245Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 RABAT 0472

PARIS AND MARSEILLE FOR DEA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR

SUBJECT: SEMI-ANNUAL REPORTING REQUIREMENT/CONGRESSIONAL
PRESENTATION

REF: (A) STATE 012151, (B) RABAT A-1, JANUARY 2.

1. SECTION A (REFTEL A). MOROCCO DOES NOT RECEIVE
ASSISTANCE FROM NARCOTICS APPROPRIATIONS UNDER THE FAA.
THEREFORE PARTS A THROUGH D OF SECTION A DO NOT APPLY.

2. AS FOR SUB-PARAGRAPH (E), NUMBER AND TYPE OF PEOPLE
TRAINED, TWO MOROCCAN POLICE OFFICIALS ATTENDED 8TH
INTERNATIONAL DEA SEMINAR IN WASHINGTON IN NOVEMBER
1974. NO POST FUNDS WERE EXPENDED.

3. RE SUB-PARAGRAPH (F), POST HAD NO U.S. PERSONNEL
AS OF 12/31/74 DEVOTING MORE THAN 50 PERCENT OF TIME
TO NARCOTICS ACTIVITIES. IT PERHAPS WORTH NOTING,
HOWEVER, THAT NAVAL TRAINING COMMAND (NTC) KENITRA HAS
NINE AGENTS WHO, WE WOULD JUDGE, SPEND IN EXCESS OF 50
PERCENT OF TIME IN DRUG-RELATED INVESTIGATIONS AS IS
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PROBABLY CASE WITH ADDITIONAL ENLISTED MAN AT NTC

ASSIGNED TO COORDINATE WITH KENITRA AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL IN SUPPRESSING DRUGS. TWO NARCOTICS TRAINED DOGS ARE USED AT NTC TO EXAMINE FPO MAIL DEPARTING MOROCCO.

4. SECTION B. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS DURING REPORTING PERIOD. HARD DRUGS HAVE NOT YET BECOME A PROBLEM IN MOROCCO. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, THERE WERE NO SIGNIFICANT SEIZURES OF HARD DRUGS NOR EFFORTS TO PROMOTE CULTIVATION DURING THIS PERIOD. NEW MOROCCAN DRUG LAW CAME INTO EFFECT JULY RAISING DRUG-RELATED OFFENSES FROM MISDEMEANORS TO FELONIES (RABAT'S A-84 JULY 30, 1974). EMBASSY HAS APPROACHED HOST GOVERNMENT ABOUT REESTABLISHMENT OF DEA OFFICE IN EMBASSY RABAT, BUT HAS NOT YET HAD FORMAL RESPONSE.

5. ABUSE. DATA ON DRUG ABUSE IS NOT ISSUED BY HOST GOVERNMENT, ALTHOUGH THERE ARE OCCASIONAL ARTICLES IN PRESS ALLUDING TO PROBLEM. THERE ARE NUMBER OF OUTWARD MANIFESTATIONS OF AVAILABILITY AND USE OF KIF. SMALL CLAY PIPES FOR SMOKING KIF ARE ON PUBLIC SALE IN MARKETS, AND AN OCCASIONAL INDIVIDUAL CAN BE SEEN OPENLY PUFFING AWAY ON HIS PIPEFUL. KIF IS OPENLY OFFERED TO PROSPECTIVE BUYERS IN A NUMBER OF MAJOR CITIES OF MOROCCO, AND IT CAN EASILY BE PURCHASED ALONG ROUTES IN, AND IN THE VICINITY OF, RIF AREA OF MOROCCO. IT IS ALSO AVAILABLE IN SMALL COOKIES OR MARAROONS WHICH ARE CONSIDERED A DELICACY; THESE ARE SOMETIMES OFFERED TO GUESTS AT WEDDING RECEPTIONS IN CERTAIN AREAS OF COUNTRY. PRODUCTION, CONSUMPTION, AND TRAFFICKING IN SOFT DRUGS, SUCH AS KIF AND HASHISH, HAVE UNDOUBTEDLY BEEN INCREASING IN RECENT YEARS. THE MAIN PROBLEM IN NARCOTICS CONTROL REMAINS THE TRADE'UKBFFANZMRJZL#ATTITUDE TOWARDS ROLE OF KIF WITHIN MOROCCAN SOCIETY. HOWEVER, MOROCCAN GOVERNMENT APPEARS TO SHOW LESS TOLERANCE TOWARD KIF TRAFFICKING THAN ITS PRODUCTION. SOME OFFICIALS, BECAUSE OF THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL EFFORT, SEEM TO PERCEIVE NEED TO TAKE STRONGER STAND AGAINST LOCAL DRUG PROBLEM, BUT THERE IS A LONG WAY TO GO BEFORE THIS ATTITUDE BECOMES GENERALIZED.

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6. PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING. PRINCIPAL REGION FOR GROWING KIF IS IN RIF MOUNTAINS OF NORTHERN MOROCCO, PARTICULARLY IN AREA AROUND KETAMA. ALTHOUGH KIF IS OPENLY GROWN IN THE REGION, MOROCCAN GOVERNMENT REPORTEDLY ATTEMPTS TO LIMIT ACREAGE OF LAND DEVOTED TO ITS CULTIVATION. ON OTHER HAND, KIF IS VALUABLE CASH CROP AND IT IS LIKELY THAT IT CAN BE GROWN IN REMOTE AREAS OF RIF WITHOUT BEING DISCOVERED BY GOVERNMENT AGENTS.

ESTIMATES VARY GREATLY AS TO TOTAL AREA UNDER CULTIVATION. A 1971 STUDY OF "KIF COUNTRY" ESTIMATED THAT RIF AREA HAS "THOUSANDS OF HECTARES" DEVOTED TO PRODUCTION OF KIF AND THAT FARMERS CALCULATED THAT TWO KILOGRAMS OF MARKETABLE KIF ARE PRODUCED PER SQUARE METER. AFTER HARVESTING, KIF IS BUNDLED AND DRIED AND TAKEN TO WEIGHTING STATIONS, AND THEN SHIPPED TO OTHER AREAS. ACCORDING TO ONE RECENT REPORT (TANGIER OM, JANUARY 21, 1975--UNVERIFIED) FOREIGN ENTREPRENEURIAL EFFORTS HAVE BEEN INITIATED IN RIF, SPANNING SUCH ACTIVITIES AS MECHANIZATION, FERTILIZATION, AND CROP ROTATION, IN AN ATTEMPT TO INCREASE PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING. IF SUCH EFFORTS PROVE SUCCESSFUL OVER TIME, CROP PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING MIGHT INCREASE AT A SIGNIFICANT RATE. ANY INCREASE, OF COURSE, WOULD NECESSARILY BE DELIMITED TO SOME DEGREE BY GENERAL INFERTILITY AND BARRENNESS OF RIF REGION.

NOTE BY OCT: # AS RECEIVED.

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FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4414

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 RABAT 0472

PARIS AND MARSEILLE FOR DEA

7. TRAFFICKING TRENDS. MOROCCAN HASHISH HAS BEEN SEIZED IN U.S. AND NEIGHBORING PORTS DURING PAST YEAR, AS WELL AS IN SOUTHERN EUROPEAN PORTS. A FEW TRAFFICKERS

HAVE APPARENTLY ATTEMPTED TO USE ALGERIA AS A TRANSIT POINT FOR MOVING MOROCCAN HASHISH TO FRANCE.

8. REGIONAL AND MULTI-LATERAL COOPERATION. MOROCCO IS ACTIVE AND COOPERATIVE IN UN AND INTERPOL DRUG CONTROL EFFORTS.

9. EMBASSY AND HOST GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES. EMBASSY HAS FORMALLY PROPOSED REESTABLISHMENT OF DEA OFFICE WITHIN EMBASSY. GOM HAS NOT YET RESPONDED FORMALLY. PROPOSAL WAS SUBMITTED FOLLOWING INFORMAL POSITIVE SOUNDINGS, HOWEVER. MEANWHILE, EMBASSY HAS KEPT MOROCCAN POLICE ADVISED OF DRUG ARRESTS REPORTED TO US FROM OTHER POSTS IN CASES WHERE MOROCCO WAS SOURCE OF THE DRUGS. WE ARE TOLD SUCH INFORMATION IS IMMEDIATELY TRANSMITTED TO FRONTIER POSTS TO ALERT THEM TO GREATER VIGILANCE. ACCORDING TO SURETE NATIONALE, IT NOW HAS SPECIAL DRUG UNIT OF ABOUT A DOZEN OFFICERS WHICH COORDINATES CLOSELY WITH REGIONAL OFFICIALS. SURETE ALSO
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INDICATES WARNINGS HAVE BEEN POSTED AT BORDER CHECKPOINTS OUTLINING SEVERE CONSEQUENCES OF DRUG INFRACTIONS, AS PART OF EFFORT TO DISCOURAGE WOULD-BE DRUG VIOLATORS FROM ENTERING COUNTRY.

10. ENFORCEMENT. STATISTICS ON ENFORCEMENT ARE SPOTTY, BUT OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE ON JAN. 9 REPORTS SEIZURE IN NOVEMBER 1974 OF 2,588 KILOGRAMS OF KIF AND 50 KILOGRAMS OF MIXED TOBACCO AND KIF. ACCORDING TO RECENT ARTICLE IN DAILY MAGHREB INFORMATION, NARCOTICS BRIGADE IN DECEMBER 1974 SEIZED 13 KILOS OF KIF, ARRESTING 18 PERSONS FOR TRAFFICKING IN KIF AND TOBACCO. WE DETECT DEFINITE INCREASE IN INTENSITY OF ENFORCEMENT IN SUPPRESSION OF DRUGS AS AFFECTING FOREIGNERS SINCE NEW LAW CAME INTO EFFECT LAST JULY, ALTHOUGH WE NOT AWARE OF PARALLEL INCREASE IN ARRESTS OF MOROCCANS IN THIS CONNECTION. PENALTIES FOR TRAFFICKING VIOLATIONS BY FOREIGNERS (AND THOSE MOROCCANS APPREHENDED AS WELL) HAVE STIFFENED PERCEPTIBLY, INVOLVING IN SOME RECENT CASES PRISON TERMS OF FIVE YEARS, COMBINED FINES OF \$40,000, AND CONFISCATION OF VEHICLES. HOWEVER, VAST MAJORITY OF FOREIGNERS ARRESTED IN MOROCCO ON DRUG-RELATED CHARGES ARE PROSECUTED AS USERS AND, THEREFORE, INCUR ONLY MINOR PENALTIES, SUCH AS ONE-MONTH PRISON TERMS AND FINES OF \$150.

11. INCOME SUBSTITUTION. WE KNOW OF NO SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY IN AREA OF INCOME SUBSTITUTION.

12. TREATMENT/REHABILITATION/EDUCATION. AS NOTED ABOVE,

CANNABIS CONSUMPTION NOT GENERALLY PERCEIVED AS A SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM HERE, AND TREATMENT, REHABILITATION AND EDUCATION THEREFORE NOT WELL DEVELOPED. EMBASSY HAS FURNISHED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS DRUG IDENTIFICATION BOOKLETS AND OTHER MATERIALS PROVIDED BY WASHINGTON. OUR REQUEST T TBEA FOR 25 DRUG IDENTIFICATION KITS IS STILL PENDING.

13. WE HAVE REVIEWED OUR FY 1976 PROGRAM SUBMISSION (RABAT'S A-101, AUGUST 29, 1974), AND BELIEVE NARATIVE CONFIDENTIAL
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ACCURATELY DESCRIBES PROJECT OBJECTIVES, PROGRESS TO THAT DATE, AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR FY 1976. ALSO STILL PERTINENT ARE (A) OUR SUGGESTED REVISED NARCOTICS COUNTRY ASSESSMENT (RABAT 5479) AND (B) AMBASSADOR'S REVIEW OF EMBASSY'S DRUG PROGRAM (RABAT 5476), BOTH SUBMITTED LAST NOVEMBER.
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